Economic Zone for Southern States

*376. MISS MABEL REBELLO :

SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Southern States propose to constitute an Economic Zone on their own on the lines of European Union;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda drawn up for the purpose to boost exports, commerce, tourism and attract FDIs; and

(c) whether such an economic zone has also been constituted by other set of States, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Improvement of Indian Ports

*377. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has made any efforts to improve the efficiency and capacity of Indian Ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) : (a) and (b) Improvement in efficiency and enhancement of capacity in major ports is a continuous process. To increase efficiency and capacity of major ports the following major steps have been taken from time to time in relation to major ports:—

(i) Construction and equipping of new berths/terminals;

(ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-art equipment on existing berth;

(iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency output;